



*A true COPIE of a Paper  
delivered by the Duke of Ham-  
ilton to some of his Servantes,  
at St James that morning be-  
fore he suffred, in the presence of  
Doctor Sibbald.*

**I** Know you that are here, to be true, and faithfull to me, I will therefore in your hearing, say some what in order to my selfe, and to my present Condition, and giue you also this Copie of it, which after I am gone may perhaps be thought necessary to be published as the last testimony of my loyaltie to my King, for whom I now dye, and of my affection to my Countrey, for the pursuance of whose pious, and loyall Comands, I am now to suffer.

That my Religion hath allwayes bin, and still is *Orthodoxe* I am confident no man doubts, I shall not therefore need to say much to that Particular, onely that I am of the true reformed Protestant Religion, as it is professed in the Church of Scotland.

I doe take God to witnes, that I haue bin constantly a loyall and faithfull subject, and servant to his late Majestie (in spite of all malice and Calumnies,) I haue had the honour since my Childhood, to attend, and be neare him, till now of late, and during all that tyme I observed in him as eminent vertues, and as litle vice, as in any man I ever knew, And I dare say he

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neuer harboured thought of Countenancing Popery in any of his Dominions, otherwise then was allowed by the Lawes of England, and that among all his Subjects, there could not be found a better Protestant then him selfe, And surely also, he was free from having any intent to exercise any tyranny, or absolute Power, ouer his Subjects, and that he hath beene so unfortunate, I rather impute the Cause of it to the sins of his people, then to his owne.

.For my owne part, I doe protest neuer to haue swerued from that true allegiance, which was due vnto him, and that hath Constantly bin paid (to my Comfort I speake it) to his Progenitours, by my Ancestours for many ages without spott, or dishonour, and I hope shall be still by my successeurs to his posterity.

I doe heartily wish well to, and pray for, his Royall Issue, and shall dye a true, and loyall subject to his eldest son *Charles* the second the vnquestionable King by right, of all his Fathers Kingdomes, I hope (though I doe not liue to see it) that Gods Justice and Goodnes will in his owne time establish him on the throne of his Father, which I doubt not some of you will see come to passe, and I am Confident that till then, and soe long as men deeply plunged in guilt, and selfe Interest vsurpe power, and gouernment, These Kingdomes will fall thort either of Peace, or any other permanent happines.

I speake this from my iust affection to the Royall Race, and much Compassion to his Majesties Subjects, but not from any Malice, anger, or desire of Reuenge, against any, for what I haue, or am to suffer, for I forgiue all men.

It is well knowne what Calumnies, and aspersions haue beene throwne vpon me, by men of seuerall Parties, and Interests, not excepting those who would seeme to carrie much affection to his late Majestie as though I had exprest disseruice, or disloyaltie vnto him, the which how malicious and groundles they were, I appeale to God, who with my owne Conscience, clearly beareth witnes of my innocency therein, And I shall beg mercie from him to whom I am now to giue an account of all my thoughts and actions, as I haue still had a faithfull, and a loyall heart to my Master.

It hath bin a generall Complaint, that I perswaded his Majestie to passe the Act for Continuing this Parliament, I dispute not whether the doing of  
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it at that time, might haue bin reputed good, or bad, but surely it was not I that did perswade it.

Neither did I at all, deale with his Majestie for his Consent to the Bill of attainder, for taking away the life of the Earle of *Strafford* whose great parts, and affection, is knowne I highly valued, yet some haue bene pleased to attribute to me the Cause of that concession, but were his Majestie now living, I am confident he would publicly Cleare me in both these, as he hath bin pleased many tymes in priuate formerly to doe.

And truly I am not conscious to my selfe (though I haue bin for many yeares a priue Councillour to him) of euer giving him any aduice that tended to other End (as I conceived) then the good and Peace of his Majestie and his Dominions.

It hath bin rumoured, since my last imprisonment, that I should confesse my selfe, to be the greatest Instrument vnder his Majestie (by making vfe of his Scottish great Seale) for authorising the warre in Ireland, A report so false, and simple, as in my opinion, iudicious and honest men will not belecue it, And truly, as I am free from having hand therein, in any maner of way, so, I am of nothing more confident, then that his Majestie was also absolutely free there of, and that he was not in any Case, a Caufer or Countenancer, of those Irish troubles.

I haue bin often examined touching Persons of severall qualities within this kingdome, that (as is supposed) did invite into England the late Army from Scotland, or promised assistance after their Comming, and of late much perswasion hath bin used with me to that purpose, as that vpon my discouerie thereof depended the onely meanes of my preseruatiō, I will not say that I had any thing to reueale, which would haue bene satisfactorie, but this I desire you to attest to the world, that I haue not accused, or said any thing, that may reflect on any man, of what degree soeuer within the Kings Dominions, And indeed, it was so Contrarie to my Conscience, and so derogatorie to my honour, that if I had bene able yet I should neuer haue preiudiced any in that nature, though it had bene to saue me a 100. liues.

Touching that soule, and sencelesse slander, that I betraid the Army vnder my Conduct, the care, and paines I then tooke to preuent the losse of it, and the neare approach of my suffering for it, will I suppose abundantly Contradict this aspersiō, I was satisfied with the iustnes and necessity of  
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that engagement, vpon the Growndes of the Declaration of the Parliament of Scotland, fearing then, the sad confusions which hath since followed here, both in Church, and State, and particularly the fatall fall of my *Master*, to the preservation of whose Person, I was by obligation, and a naturall affection, as passionately tied, as I could be by dutie, and allegiance.

And now I confesse, I am void of all rancour, or displeasure against any, though I am within few houres to dye: adiudged by a lawlesse, and arbitrary Court of purpose erected (as is said) to destroy my *Master* and some of his seruants, and for a great part composed of men *Mechanick*, and unfit to be Judges, my death being decreed (right or wrong) as is reported before ever the tryall began, and though my death is no lesse then murder, yet I forgiue all, and pray to God to doe it, and that my blood be not laid to their Charge, or to some powerfull, and eminent mens, who, as is thought vpon some sinister Ends, haue many moneths since Contriu'd my destruction, which now is ready to take effect.

And though I haue answered to that Court, in regard of the iustnes of my defence, which I thought would haue waighed with them, yet I neuer thought, nor doe I acknowledge any Iurisdiction, or lawfull Authority in the same, not with standing, I doe with all Christian humility submit to the Punishment which for my other personall sins, the Lord hath justly brought vpon me.

I should haue spoken much more, yet would not haue said so much, but for feare lest either my memorie might slip it on the Scaffold, or that the rudenes of some people by noise or otherwise, might haue interrupted me speaking on this subject, Soe I thanke God, I am well prepar'd, God blesse you, Remember me to all my freinds.

I know I haue beene a great sinner, yet through faith I haue an assurance that God will forgiue me, and haue mercie vpon me through the alone suffering, and intercession of Iesus Christ my Saviour.

*A M E N.*

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